

CALENDAR

MASSACHUSETTS PESTICIDE EXAM SCHEDULE

UMASS Eastern Extension Center—240 Beaver St., Waltham

MARCH 8.

MARCH 22. Deadline for submitting application is **MARCH 14.**

SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE—1 Armory Sq., Springfield

MARCH 18. Deadline for submitting application is **MARCH 11.**

CAPE COD COMMUNITY COLLEGE—Rte. 132, 2240 Iyanough Rd., West Barnstable

MARCH 20. Deadline for submitting application is **MARCH 13.**

QUESTIONS CALL—617-626-1785.

NEW HAMPSHIRE FRUIT GROWER'S MEETING

Alan's Restaurant, Boscawen, NH

MARCH 16. Call 603-862-3203

IMPORT OF APPLES FROM CHINA FAR FROM IMMINENT

By Tom Karst

China, the big bad wolf of global apple production is knocking on the door of the U.S. market.

In fact, the government of China indicated two years ago it wanted to start talks aimed at winning entry for its fresh market apples into the U.S. market.

One U.S. Department of Agriculture official said the USDA is just starting to gather information on Chinese apples. He noted that China's range of climates varies from the tropical to the frigid, representing a challenge in information gathering.

There is little doubt it will take a lot of huffing and puffing for China to win entry into the U.S. market; one industry leader said it could take a decade or longer.

"Given the size of China's production area and given the complicated nature of the pest regime that exists, it is our expectation that to do a thorough job of pest risk analysis would require a minimum of seven to ten years," said Kraig Naasz, president of the U.S. Apple Association.

China's apple production in 2001 totaled nearly 20 million metric tons, compared with less than 5 million metric tons in the U.S., said Desmond O'Rourke, president of Belrose, Inc., Wash.

China exports only a small portion of its output—about 1.5% last year. Still, O'Rourke said, the volume of China's fresh exports is rising: in 2001 it topped 300,000 metric tons for the first time. And fresh apple exports have doubled in the past two years.

The U.S. exports 700,000-800,000 metric tons of apples and imports about 160,000 metric tons.

In the end, the threat of China's apples in U.S. supermarkets may be minimal—even if Chinese apples eventually win access.

The most harm Chinese apples pose is to U.S. export markets in Asia, O'Rourke said.

China's huge production of Fujis does threaten to erode some U.S. export markets, added Roger Pepperl, director of marketing for Stemilt Growers, Wash. On the other hand, he said, China's growing economy could spur consumption of apples, keeping more of China's apples in the country.

Pepperl said China's lack of controlled-atmosphere storage will hurt the country's ability to compete in the U.S. market.

Time and cost of transport will discourage shipments to the U.S., and China offers buyers virtually nothing but the Fuji variety.

The importance of the world's heavyweight producer coming to the U.S. may be more psychological than commercial.

More critical than those two issues, Naasz said, is the risk of pests and diseases introduced from the vast country.

The USDA official said a pest risk analysis—a precursor to possible protocol to establish the terms of phytosanitary safeguards for an approved import commodity—has not been initiated.

Even so, industry leaders in the U.S. have mobilized to ensure that China's request is subjected to intense scientific scrutiny to prevent the introduction of pests and diseases from China.

The Washington Apple Commission recently granted \$50,000 to the Tree Fruit Technical Advisory Committee known as Tree-TAC, to engage a leading technical expert to assist the industry in its risk and process analysis related to the possible import of apples from China.

An early review by the group, Naasz said, indicates the presence of a number of tree fruit pests in China that, if introduced to the U.S., would cause severe damage and would be nearly impossible to control.

The U.S. apple industry faces great pressures from the pest already in the U.S. and must contend with regulations that take away more and more crop production tools, he said.

Naasz said Tree-TAC also is charged with making certain that products that enter the U.S. meet the same sanitary and microbiological standards as domestic produce.

In addition, he said China's record on phytosanitary issues is suspect. He noted that the Philippines recently banned Chinese apples because of the discovery of codling moth larvae.

O'Rourke said because the U.S. exports five times as many apples as it imports, U.S. officials and industry leaders must work on keeping foreign markets open more than trying to exclude imports.

While the U.S. apple import tariff is zero, exporters must pay considerably higher tariffs to gain access to markets like China.

(Article from "THE PACKER" February 18, 2002)

APPLE SHIPMENT TRACKING

Source: USDA

Amounts are shown in units of 10,000 pounds

Season Begins	02/10/02- 02/16/02	02/03/02- 02/09/02	02/11/01- 02/17/01	Total this season 02/16/02	Total last season 02/17/01
SEPTEMBER	13,032	9,798	10,601	217,780	257,379

MID-WEEK F.O.B. PRICES AT MASSACHUSETTS COUNTRY SHIPPING POINT

Prices and grades received by telephone, MARCH 5, 2002

NO CHANGE

Controlled Atmosphere

VARIETY	GRADE	SIZE	PRICE
McINTOSH	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy	80s	19.00
		96s	18.50
	Cartons Film Bags U.S. Fancy	12-3s 2-1/2" min	12.50
	Cartons Tote Bags U.S. Fancy	8-5s 2-1/2" min	14.00
CORTLAND	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy	72s & 80s	18.00
	Cartons Film Bags U.S. Fancy	12-3s 2-1/2" min	12.50
	Cartons Tote Bags U.S. Fancy	8-5s 2-1/2" min	14.00
EMPIRE	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy	80s	18.00
		96s	17.50
	Cartons Film Bags U.S. Fancy	12-3s 2-1/2" min	11.50
	Cartons Tote Bags U.S. Fancy	8-5s 2-1/2" min	13.00
RED DELICIOUS	Cartons Tray Pack U.S. Extra Fancy	80s & 88s	13.50
	Cartons Film Bags U.S. Fancy	12-3s 2-1/2" min	11.00
	Cartons Tote Bags U.S. Fancy	8-5s 2-1/2" min	13.00
FEDERAL MARKET NEWS SERVICE, EVERETT, MASS. MARCH 4, 2002 Controlled Atmosphere			

NEW ENGLAND			
McINTOSH	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy	80s	23.00-24.00
		100s	20.00
	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. No. 1	80s	12.00
		100s, 120s, 140s	9.00- 9.50
	Cartons Film Bags U.S. Fancy	12-3s 2-1/2" min	9.50
CORTLAND	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. Extra Fancy	56s & 72s	20.00-22.00
		80s	18.00
		96s	17.00
	Cartons Cell Pack U.S. No. 1	72s	15.00
		80s	12.00-15.00 mostly 15.00
	Cartons Film Bags U.S. Fancy	12-3s 2-1/4" min	15.00
SHIPPED IN			
McINTOSH	NY Hudson Valley Ctns CelPk U.S. ExFcy	80s & 100s	19.00-20.00
	Lake Champlain Ctns CelPk U.S. ExFcy	80s	20.00-23.50
		100s	20.00-21.00
		120s	20.00
	NY Hudson Valley Ctns CelPk U.S. No. 1	80s	11.00
		100s	10.00
		120s	9.50
	NY Hudson Valley Ctns FlmBg U.S. ExFcy	12-3s 2-1/4" min	10.00
CORTLAND	NY Hudson Valley Ctns FlmBg U.S. Fcy	12-3s 2-1/2" up	11.00-12.00 mostly 12.00
	Nova Scotia Ctns CelPk MKD ExFcy	80s	20.00
EMPIRE	PA Cartons Cell Pack U.S. ExFcy	88s	17.00
HONEY CRISP	NY Hudson Valley Ctns CelPk U.S. ExFcy	48s, 56s, 64s	18.00
	NY Hudson Valley Ctns FlmBgs U.S. ExFcy	12-3s 2-1/2" min	7.50
RED DELICIOUS	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	64s	16.00-19.00 mostly 18.00 fine appear. 19.00-21.00
		72s	16.00-17.00 fine appear. 19.00-21.00
		80s	16.00-18.00 fine appear. 19.00-21.00
		88s	15.00-17.00 fine appear. 19.00-21.00
		100s	15.00-18.00 mostly 17.00-18.00 fine appear. 20.00-21.00
		125s	15.50-18.00 mostly 16.00-18.00
GOLDEN DELICIOUS	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	64s	26.00-28.00 mostly 27.00
		72s	26.00-27.00 mostly 26.00
		80s	24.00-28.00 mostly 24.00-26.00
		88s	22.00-26.00 mostly 24.00
		100s	21.00-24.00 mostly 22.00-23.00
		113s	19.00-20.00
		125s	18.00-19.00 mostly 18.00
	PA Cartons Cell Pack U.S. ExFcy	100s	17.00
	WA Cartons Cell Pack WAExFcy	80s	26.00-27.00
		96s	24.00-24.50
ROYAL GALA	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	80s	24.50-28.00 mostly 26.00-27.00
		88s	26.00-28.00 mostly 26.00-27.00
		100s	23.00-24.00

RED ROME	PA Cartons Cell Pack U.S. ExFcy	88s	16.00
FUJI	PA Cartons Cell Pack U.S. ExFcy	80s	23.00
	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	88s	24.00
JONAGOLD	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	88s	21.00
CAMEO	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	72s & 80s	24.00-24.50
		88s	22.00
PINK LADY	WA Cartons Tray pack WAExFcy	88s	30.00-32.00
GRANNY SMITH	WA Cartons Tray Pack WAExFcy	64s	26.00-30.00 mostly 28.00-30.00
		72s	26.00-30.00 mostly 26.00-28.00
		80s	25.00-28.00 mostly 25.00-26.00
		88s	24.00-26.00
		100s	19.00-22.00 mostly 19.00-20.00`
		113s	18.00-19.00
		125s	17.00-19.00 mostly 17.00-18.00
	WA Cartons Film Bags WAExFcy	12-3s 2-1/2" min	16.50-18.00 mostly 18.00
CIDER	New England Preserved Cartons	4-1 gallon bottles	9.00- 9.40 mostly 9.00
		9 ½-gallon bottles	10.00 best 11.25

Howard Vinton,
Editor